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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AM: DB10133-0606

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 ES-08  
ICA-11 DODE-00 H-01 IO-14 NSC-05 NSAE-00 COME-00  
HA-06 TRSE-00 PH-09 PA-01 OND-01 RP-10 AGR-01  
SP-02 SR-04 SPRS-02 /120 W  
-----048686 210010Z /63

R 191448Z MAR 81  
FM AMEMBASSY BERN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3367  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 01234

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC, ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12065: GDS 3/19/87 (MONROE, GERALD J.) OR-E  
TAGS: SREF, PK, AF, SZ  
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF

REFS: A. STATE 64633, B. 80 BERN 6348, C. BERN 1238 (NOTAL)

1. SWISS AID OFFICIALS HAVE REACHED NO FIRM DECISIONS  
ON REFUGEE RELIEF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF  
THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS LIKELY AFRICAN PROBLEMS  
WILL RECEIVE FIRST PRIORITY (SEE REFTEL C).

(TOLD US THAT THE GOS REMAINS AWARE OF  
AND SYMPATHETIC TO AFGHAN REFUGEE NEEDS. HE WAS HOPEFUL  
THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MOMENTOUS NATURAL DISASTER  
(SUCH AS THE ITALIAN AND ALGERIAN EARTHQUAKES), THE SWISS  
WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND MONEY FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES IN THEIR  
"NATURAL DISASTER RESERVE FUND" SOMETIME AFTER JUNE.

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2. COMMENT. THE GOS IS CRITICALLY SHORT OF REFUGEE

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RELIEF FUNDING THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TIGHT FISCAL POLICY AND THE VIRTUAL DEPLETION OF ITS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CREDIT, WHICH LAPSES IN DECEMBER. THE DEMANDS ON THIS THREE-YEAR SF 270 MILLION PROGRAM HAVE BEEN MUCH HEAVIER THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED IN 1978 WHEN THE CREDIT WAS APPROPRIATED. AS A RESULT, THE GOS IS PLANNING TO SEEK A MUCH LARGER CREDIT FOR THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1982.

3. WE HAVE PROVIDED [REDACTED] REFTEL A DATA, WHICH WE HOPE WILL HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON MFA PLANNING FOR SECOND HALF 1981 REFUGEE RELIEF DISBURSEMENTS. IN A CONVERSATION WITH A RANKING MFA POLITICAL DIVISION OFFICIAL, WE ALSO RECEIVED A SYMPATHETIC HEARING WHEN WE REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PAKISTAN'S SITUATION. VINE

*Blaze/1*

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